AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A web material feeding apparatus, comprising:

a feeding path along which a web material is guided lengthwise,

a feeding roller for drawing out and feeding the web material along said feeding path,

a suction plate having a flat suction surface arranged to suck the web material planarly being provided on said feeding path, for sucking and thereby exerting braking force on the web material which is drawn out by said feeding roller and traveling,

meandering detection means provided at an downstream side of said suction plate on said feeding path, for detecting deviation of the web material with respect to a width direction of the web material, [[and]]

meandering correction means including a guide sleeve provided adjacent to the suction plate to guide the web material in traveling and arranged to be shiftable with the suction plate in the direction parallel to the width of the web material, and shifting means for shifting the guide sleeve in the axial direction thereof for correcting the deviation of the web material by shifting said suction plate in the direction across said feeding path, when the deviation is detected by said meandering detection means, wherein said guide sleeve is mounted on a guide shaft, said guide shaft including a first end with a feed screw disposed

thereon for selectively imparting a shift in an axial direction to said guide sleeve, and

a gear pulley operatively connected to said feed screw and in engagement with said guide sleeve for cooperating with said feed screw to impart a shift in the axial direction to said guide sleeve.

2. (Previously Presented) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reservoir box provided on said feeding path, for storing the web material, wherein

said suction plate is provided near an outlet of said reservoir box.

3. (Original) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising two guide members provided near said suction plate on the opposite sides of said feeding path, for guiding the opposite side-edges of the web material, wherein

said meandering correction means is adapted to shift said two guide members together with said suction plate.

4. (Withdrawn) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said suction plate extends from the outlet of said reservoir box in the direction in which the web material is drawn out, and said two guide members are arranged on the opposite sides of said suction plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a reservoir box provided on said feeding path, for storing the web material, and

two guide members provided near said suction plate on the opposite sides of said feeding path, for guiding the opposite side-edges of the web material, wherein

said suction plate is provided near an outlet of said reservoir box, and

said meandering correction means is adapted to shift said two guide members together with said suction plate.

6. (Withdrawn) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said suction plate extends from the outlet of said reservoir box in the direction in which the web material is drawn out, and said two guide members are arranged on the opposite sides of said suction plate.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim [[8]] 1, and further including a flange operatively connected to said guide sleeve and a thrust bearing surface formed on said gear pulley for receiving the flange of the guide sleeve for supporting the guide sleeve in the axial direction.

10. (Currently Amended) The web material feeding apparatus according to claim [[7]] 1, and further including a bracket operatively connected to said suction plate, said bracket being attached to said guide sleeve for being shifted in the axial direction together with said guide sleeve.